

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 SY-10 M-03 EB-11 AF-10 OMB-01 ACDA-19 NIC-01

SAJ-01 RSR-01 /173 W

----- 029855

R 251527 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1836

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4816

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF US UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET ROLE IN " BIG LIE" RE US ACTIVITIES IN ME

REF: BEIRUT 4754 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: AS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED, LOCAL FEDAYEEN AND COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE PICKED UP RADIO ISRAEL BROADCAST CITED AMMAN 2196 (NOTAL) AND ARE USING IT TO EMBELLISH " BIG LIE" FOR ALL IT IS WORTH. COMMUNIST PRESS, IN PARTICULAR, IS PROMOTING ANTI- US PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AT HIGH PITCH, DEVELOPMENT WHICH LEADS US SUSPECT THAT SOVS ARE ACTIVE INSTIGATORS, AS WELL AS BIG BENEFICIARIES, OF " BIG LIE" AND THAT THEY ARE ENJOYING ITS SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

1. APR 24 PLO (Wafa) DAILY BULLETIN PRINTED LENGHTY QUOTES FROM ISRAWL RAIDO TO EFFECT THAT CIA EFFORTS TO COMBAT ARAB TERRORISM ARE CONTINUING AND THAT US INTELLIGENCE KNOWS FINANCIAL SOURCES BEHIND BSO/ FATAH. IN ONE OF MOST VITRIOLIC EXPRESSIONS OF FEDAYEEN HOSTILITY TOWARD USG WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE, Wafa' S DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT COMMENTED THAT ISRAELI

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BROADCAST REPRESENTS FINAL PROFF OF TOTAL US INVOLMENT IN ISRAEL' S
" WAR AGAINST PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" AND IS PRELUDE TO FURTHER
" JOINT US- ISRAELI TERROR OPERATION" AIMED AT ERASING
PALESTINIANS AS POLITICAL FORCE IN ME.

2. ABOVE Wafa ARTICLE RECEIVED PROMINENT TREATMENT IN LOCAL
COMMUNIST DAILY AN NIDA APR 25. LATTER PAPER, ALONG WITH
COMMUNIST WEEKLY AL AKHBAR AND LEFIST, PRO- MOSCOW DAILY ASH
SHABB, HAS OF COURSE BEEN DEVOTING CONSIDERABLE SPACE TO
PROMOTING " BIG LIE" EVER SINCE APR 10 ISRAEL RAID, BUT SUCH
EFFORTS IN PAST WEEK HAVE ASSUMED INCREASINGLY VITUPERATIVE
AND BLATANT PROPORTIONS. (DETAILS BEING REPORTING VIA AIRGRAM.)
WHOLE CAMPAIGN IS BEING CONDUCTED IN EXTREMELY CLEVER AND
PROFESSIONALLY EXPERT FASHION, WITH NO - EVIDENCE" OF US " PLOTTING"--
WHETHER IT BE FEDAYEEN AND LEFTIST ALLEGATION OF US " COMPLICITY"
IN ISRAELI RAID, US POSITION IN RECENT SC DEBATE, US AMBASSADORIAL
CONFERENCE AT TEHRAN, REPORT OF US CONCERN RE GULF OIL AND
ENERGY CRISIS, AND STORIES OF CONTINUING AMERICAN ARMS
DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL-- BEING OVERLOOKED. WHOLE OBJECT IS TO DRIVE
HOME FAVORITE THEORY THAT USG TRYING BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO
" CRUSH EVERY VESTIGE OF ARAB NATIONALISM" IN ORDER WORK IT " EVIL
WILL" IN ME IN GENERAL AND LEBANON AND GULF IN PARTICULAR.

3. AT SAME TIME, MUCH PRAISE IS BEING LAVISHED ON USSR, " OUR
TRUE FRIEND", FOR " STANDING BY OUR SIDE" AND HELPING EXPOSE US
" CONSPIRACIES". SOV AMBASSADOR HERE HAS ACTIVELY BEEN PROMOT-
ING THIS THEME EVER SINCE HIS WELL PUBLICIZED APPROACH TO GOL
ON APR 11, WHEN HE REITERATED TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE HIS STANDARD
OFFER OF FULL SOV MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR
LEBANON AGAINST ISRAEL. (COMMENT: GOL, AS USUAL, DID NOT
REPLY TO OFFER.) LOCAL LEFTISTS, SPEARHEADED BY KAMAL JUMBLATT
AND HIS PAN- ARAB " PROGRESSIVE FRONT" FOR SUPPORT OF FEDAYEEN,
ARE ALSO VIGOROUSLY EXPOUNDING SAME LINE, AND COMMUNIST
PRESS HERE HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO EXPLOIT THEIR EFFORTS FULLY.

4. COMMENT: FOREGOING DOVETAILS WITH OTHER REPORTS THAT
SOVS, REGARDLESS OF THEIR FREQUENT PROTESTATIONS OF OPPOSITION
TO ME TERRORISM, HAVE NO INTENTION OF MATCHING WORDS WITH
DEEDS IN RESTRAINING FEDAYEEN. AS REPORTED IN OTHER CHANNELS,
CONVERT SOVIET SUPPORT (ARMS AID, TRAINING ASSISTANCE, ETC.)
FOR FEDAYEEN CONTINUES AS WELL AS SOV GUIDANCE ON VARIOUS POINTS

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SUCH AS ALLEGED ISRAELI AND USG ACTIONS AGAINST PALESTINIANS.
THIS COVERT SUPPORT HAS RECENTLY BEEN ACCOMPAINED BY
BLATANT ANTI- USG PROPAGANDA BY SOV- CONTROLLED LEBANESE PRESS.
GIVEN EXPERT NATURE OF THIS CAMPAIGN, PLUS APPARENT TENDENCY
OF LARGE SEGMENT OF LEBANESE (AND OTHER ARAB) PUBLIC OPINION
TO SWALLOW MOST LIES, NO MATTER HOW ABSURD, FED THEM THESE
DAYS, IT WOULD SEEM SOVS HAVE EVERY REASON BE DELIGHTED ABOUT

THEIR ABILITY TO " HAVE THINGS BOTH WAYS" WHERE FEDAYEEN ARE
CONCERNED. PREVIOUS DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FEDAYEEN AND SOVS
OVER SUCH ISSUE AS SC RES 242 SEEM TO HAVE BEEN PUT ASIDE.
BUFFUM

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